



DOE Office of Indian Energy Project Development and Finance Course Curriculum Terminology Guide

A

AC – alternating current. This is the type of electricity that is used in most U.S. households

B

BIA – The U.S. Department of the Interior’s (DOI’s) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

BLM – Bureau of Land Management (part of DOI; see previous entry)

C

CDE – community development entity. Required participant in new market tax credit (NMTC) transactions

CSP – concentrating solar power

Community-Scale Project – multiple buildings; campuses with a primary purpose of offsetting community energy costs to promote energy self-sufficiency

Commercial-Scale Project – a stand-alone project with a primary purpose of generating revenue resulting in financial self-sufficiency

D

DC – direct current

Developer – organizes all of the other parties and typically controls and makes an equity investment in the company or other entity that owns the project

DOE – U.S. Department of Energy

DOE-IE – U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

DOI – U.S. Department of the Interior

E

EA – environmental assessment

EERE – U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



EIS — environmental impact statement

EPA — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPC — engineering procurement and construction contractor. Construction contractor provides design, engineering, and construction of the project

F

Facility Scale Project — a single building system with a primary purpose of offsetting building energy use

Feedstock Supplier — provider of the supply of feedstock (i.e., energy, raw materials) to the project (e.g., for a power plant, the feedstock supplier will supply fuel)

FERC — Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FONSI — finding of no significant impact

Flip — renewable energy development partnership structure in which a non-taxable entity partners with a taxable entity to capture tax credit benefits of renewable energy development

I

IHS — Indian Health Service

ITC — investment tax credit. Reduces federal income taxes for qualified tax-paying owners based on capital investment in renewable energy projects and is earned when equipment is placed in service

IRR — internal rate of return

K

kV — kilovolt

kW — kilowatt

kWh — kilowatt-hour

L

Landowner/Site Owner — legal and/or beneficial owner of land and natural resources

Lease Pass-Through — renewable energy financing strategy in which multiple participants participate. Majority owned by a tax equity partner to capture benefits and pass through to non-taxable entity owner

Lender — a single or group of financial institutions that provide a loan to the project company to develop and construct the project and that take a security interest in all of the project assets

LCOE — levelized cost of energy; a comparative measure

LLC — limited liability company

M

MW — megawatt

N

NERC — North American Electric Reliability Corporation

NMTCs — new market tax credits. These credits, initiated in 2000 by the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000, intend to spark private investment in low income and tribal areas

NREL — National Renewable Energy Laboratory

O

O&M — operations and maintenance

Offtaker — purchaser of the electricity from a renewable energy system. For a facility-scale project, it is often the building location where the system is located. For a community-scale project, it is often the community supporting the development. For a commercial-scale project, it can be any party purchasing the electricity, but is typically a utility

Operator — provider of the day-to-day O&M of the project

P

PPA — power purchase agreement

Product Offtaker — See “Offtaker” entry

Project Company — legal entity that owns the project

PTC — production tax credit. This is a federal tax incentive for renewable energy based on the electrical output of the project in kilowatt hours

PV – photovoltaic. This is a solar resource converter to electricity.

R

RECs – renewable energy credits

RFP – request for proposal

Risk – inherent challenges and potential losses associated with renewable energy development. There are multiple kinds of risk (e.g. development, site, permitting, finance, construction, operating) and risk varies at different stages of project development

RPS – renewable portfolio standard

S

Sale Leaseback – renewable energy project financing structure that allows for multiple participants in a development structure. Allows for capture of tax credit value for non-taxable entities

SPE – special purpose entity

Sponsor – See “Developer” entry

SPV – special purpose vehicle

START – DOE-IE Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team

T

Tax Equity Partner – a project development partner with a tax appetite that can take advantage of existing tax credits for renewable energy projects at the federal and state level

TEP – U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s Tribal Energy Program

Tribal Host – primary sovereign of the project site

U

USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture

W

WAPA – Western Area Power Administration